

A REPORT ON THE OCCURRENCE OF ZEYLANIDIUM LICHENOIDES  
IN THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU, INDIA

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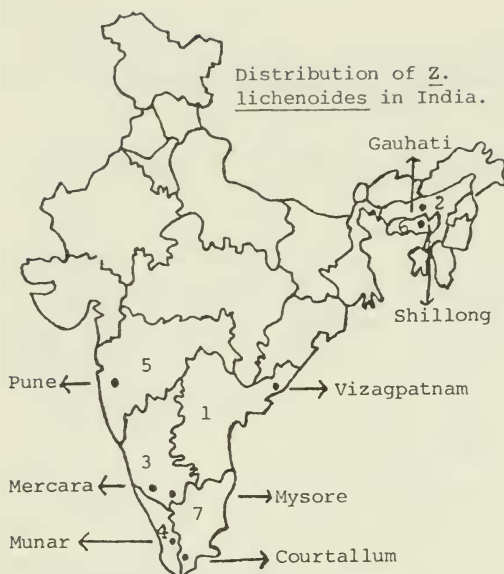
According to Nagendran, C. R. et al. (1976-77), the family Podostemaceae is represented in India by 20 species. The taxon, Zeylanidium lichenoides (Kurz) Engl., was reported from the following states: Andhra Pradesh (Vizagapatnam), Assam\*\* (62nd mile post on road from Shillong to Gauhati), Karnataka (Cauvery falls in Chunchunkatte, Mysore Dist., and Jodapala, 18 kms from Mercara-Mangalore road, Coorg Dist.), Kerala (waterfalls in Munar, Idikki Dist.) and Maharashtra (21 kms west of Junnar, Inglun Bhivadi road, Pune Dist.).

The present paper accounts for the occurrence of Zeylanidium lichenoides in Tamil Nadu. This species was found growing on partially submerged rocks in a stream located between Shenbaghadevi falls and Honey falls, Courtallum, South-west Tamil Nadu. The collection spot lies about 60 miles east of the Kerala State border. Several collections of the specimen were made by the following: K. N. Gandhi and J. V. Rudramuny (Oct. 1975), K. N. Gandhi and Narayanan Mohan (Oct. 1977 & Oct. 1978), K. N. Gandhi and M. Seenappa (Oct. 1979), and J. V. Rudramuny and B. K. Sadashiva Singh (Oct. 1980). All the above collections were in the vegetative state only, and it was not possible to identify the specimen (polymorphism is common in this family). However, flowering and fruiting specimens were collected by K. N. Gandhi and Y. Thulajappa (June, 1981) and identified as Z. lichenoides. Further collections were made by K. N. Gandhi and H. Gokul (Nov. 1981) and Y. Thulajappa and Narayanan Mohan (Nov. 1982). The specimens are deposited in the Dept. of Botany, National College and N.L.U.

P. Van Royan (1951-54) has described variations found in the habitat of Podostemaceae including the growth of the specimens on woody stems and roots that are permanently wet with stream water. The authors also collected specimens of Z. lichenoides in this habitat and as epiphytes on the buttresses (of a Ficus tree) that were under constant spray of water from a small waterfall, in the same area.

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\*\* Whether the collection spot presently is in the State of Meghalaya (separated from Assam) or in the present Assam, is not clear to the authors.



- 1) Andhra Pradesh, 2) Assam, 3) Karnataka, 4) Kerala, 5) Maharashtra, 6) Meghalaya and, 7) Tamil Nadu



Growth of Z. lichenoides as an epiphyte on the buttresses of a Ficus tree.

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#### References:

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